

D-7820

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No.

STRY  
7820

S.1, Special Branch

## REPORT

Date August 8, 1939

Subject (in full) Henryk HETTER - Communication dated July 19, 1939 from Polish Legation.

Made by D.S. Pitts

Forwarded by

C. G. Gifford S.I.

In accordance with instructions received, the letter signed by the Commissioner of Police together with a copy of a report on Mr. and Mrs. H. HETTER were handed to Mr. BOHOMOLEC, Acting Consul-General for Poland, on August 7, 1939 by D.S. Pitts.

Mr. BOHOMOLEC had no further useful information to offer this office in regard to HETTER.

*D. S. Pitts*  
D. S.

FILE

D.C. (Special Branch)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Section 1, Special Branch Station  
REPORT

Date August 4, 1939.

File No. 7820  
STRY  
8 3

Subject (in full) Henryk KETTER - Communication dated July 19 from Polish Legation.

Made by D.S. Pitts

Forwarded by

C. Gershon D.S.

Forwarded herewith is a copy of a report of the result of investigations conducted by this office into the activities of Mr. and Mrs. Henryk KETTER during their stay in Shanghai.

These enquiries were instituted in February and March 1937 following the receipt of information that KETTER was suspected of being a communist agent.

Although every effort has been made to ascertain KETTER'S address after leaving Shanghai, our activities in this direction have met with no result.

*D.S. Pitts*  
D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)

*D.S. Pitts*  
4/8

March 5, 1937.

Henryk RETTER, Polish Jew.

Henryk RETTER, a Polish Jew, was born at Serajevo, Yugo-Slavia on August 21, 1910, of Polish parents of Jewish extraction. He studied in Poland until 1929 or 1930, when he proceeded to France to complete his education. He remained in France until the summer of 1935 when he came to Shanghai.

From 1930 until 1933, Retter studied law, economics and commercial science at the Universities of Sorbonne (Paris), Nancy and Caen and diplomas received by Retter have been seen in confidence, leaving little doubt that during the period in question, he was legitimately using his time in studying.

In 1933 and 1934 Retter was employed in Paris with one H. SINGEL of 20 Passage des Petites Ecuries, Paris.

In 1935, Retter, who by this time had married in Paris a Polish Jewess named Hinda RABINOWITZ, decided that the time was opportune for him to endeavour to support his wife and himself by his own labours, as up to this time he had been supported by his parents, and after his marriage, by his parents-in-law, who are wealthy people, controlling large seed-oil interests in Poland. With this thought in mind he decided to come to China to set up an import and export business in various lines. From the time of his marriage until about two months ago, Retter has been receiving a monthly remittance from his father-in-law. Mrs. Retter is a qualified bacteriologist and after arrival in Shanghai unsuccessfully tried to obtain a post with the French Municipal Council as an analytical chemist.

Retter and his wife left France in August, 1935, travelled overland to Venice, where they embarked on the s.s. "Comte Rosso", on August 10, 1935. They left this vessel in Hongkong on September 1, 1935, and remained in the Colony for about 18 days, after which they continued their journey to Shanghai on the P. & O.

s.s. "Chitral." Retter's object in visiting Hongkong was to ascertain what opportunities there existed for him as a new business man. He was not pleased with the prospects there and left after a brief stay. After arrival in Shanghai on September 22, 1935, the Retters stayed at the Metropole Hotel until October 1, 1935 when they removed to 941 Bubbling Well Road, which was then housing the Western Mansions.

Now during Retter's voyage to the Far East on the s.s. "Conte Rosso", he became rather friendly with a Mr. A.H. ROACH, British, employed in the Tea Department of Messrs. Olivier-Chine, 95 Museum Road, who was a fellow passenger. Retter confided his troubles and hopes in Roach, who taking a liking to Retter, promised to do what he could to assist him in "finding his legs" in Shanghai. Since his arrival here, Roach has befriended him in both business and private life.

After Retter had arrived in Shanghai and put up at the Metropole Hotel on September 22, 1935, he communicated with Roach, who aware of the fact that Retter's finances were in none too healthy a condition, advised him to leave the Metropole as it was too expensive and move to a boarding-house or a smaller hotel. Accordingly on October 1, 1935 the Retters removed to the Western Mansions, where they resided for one month.

On September 23, 1935 Retter first approached the local Polish Legation authorities for the purpose of registering himself and his wife as Polish citizens. Although Mrs. Retter was in possession of a Polish passport issued in Paris bearing her married name, neither she nor Retter could produce other documentary evidence (marriage certificate, etc.) to prove to the satisfaction of the Polish authorities that they were legally married. As a result of this the Polish Legation felt that Retter was possibly trying to conceal something of a dubious nature, and communicated with its Legation in Paris

requesting full information regarding Retter's activities and movements whilst in France. Following this, the Surete Nationale (the French equivalent of Scotland Yard) conducted investigations into Retter's affairs in France, and according to the information transmitted to Shanghai from Paris, any suspicions concerning Retter's activities could be regarded as being unfounded, he having led the normal life of a foreign student. Information was also forthcoming from Paris which permitted the local Legation to register both Retter and his wife as a legally married couple.

In the latter part of October, 1935 an advertisement appeared in the North-China Daily News offering a furnished apartment at Flat 3, House 4, Greystone Apartments, 525 Seymour Road. Roach, still playing the role of a friend, arranged with the advertiser to take over the flat on Retter's behalf as from November 1, 1935. The advertiser, Mr. J.H. NIXON, British, in whose name the premises are still leased, is the proprietor of Jas. E. Nixon & Co., Cotton and Cotton Waste Merchants, 149 Szechuen Road. He resides at 310 Hart Road and enjoys a good reputation locally. Retter and his wife moved into this flat on November 1, and since that date have paid rent of \$175 per month to Mr. Nixon.

On October 9, 1935 Retter leased Post Office Box No. 1244, Mr. West, the then manager of the Western Mansions, acting as guarantor.

On January 15, 1936, Retter took over Office No. 33 located on the 3rd floor of the Capitol Building, 142 Museum Road, having previously made arrangements with the agents, Messrs. S.H. Shahnoun & Co., 83 Peking Road, to lease it for one year or more at a monthly rental of \$60. He used this office for transacting such business in which he was engaged, but as will be explained below, his business was not sufficiently prosperous to compel him to visit the office regularly, and it

has been established that he was in the habit of only occasionally making calls at his office - sometimes three and four times a week and sometimes even less. All office equipment was furnished by the agents, no telephone was installed, no assistant was employed and nobody other than Retter himself and the office cleaners ever put foot in the office.

Retter gave up this office on February 28, 1937. A confidential "look-over" the office in question on March 1, 1937 failed to reveal anything of a suspicious nature.

Regarding Retter's business activities, it has been ascertained that he dealt in the import and export of cloth manufactures and piece goods from and to Poland and Palestine, and occasionally dealt in sausage casings and tea. He has done a small but regular amount of business during the last twelve months with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson's, Polish-Chinese Trading Corporation Ltd., 150 Kiakiang Road and the Polish Import and Export Co., 380 Swachmen Road. He is a member of the Polish Chamber of Commerce, and although far from being a "big" business man, is regarded by members of this Chamber as being an honest and straightforward individual.

He receives very little mail from abroad and that which does arrive is delivered to him through the medium of P.O. Box 1244.

One thing is certain - Retter is not very well-off as regards money, inspite of the fact that his parents-in-law until a short time ago, were in the habit of regularly sending him remittances to enable him to support their daughter in a fair degree of comfort.

Questioned through a third person Retter was asked why he had been absent from Poland since 1929. In reply he stated quite frankly in order to evade military service and that if, and when he returned to Poland, he was "going to have a good

try to get out of it for good".

Retter spent many hours each week in the Foreign Y.M.C.A. studying intricate chess problems, and playing chess with some of the local experts. He was recently successful in a chess tournament at the Y.M.C.A. He often played with one M. DIAMANT, who some years ago came under the suspicion of this office, but according to our present enquiries no significance beyond their mutual interest in the game can be attached to their meetings. Diamant, it should be added, is one of the most prominent chess players in Shanghai.

Retter's home has been thoroughly checked, but there is no indication from its contents that he is engaged in any subversive activities.

An unobtrusive watch was maintained over Retter's movements for twelve days commencing from February 16, 1937, but apart from a few business calls of a legitimate nature, most of his time was spent at home with his wife and baby daughter (born in the Country Hospital in the autumn of 1936) and at the Y.M.C.A. playing chess. The surveillance, however, revealed one very interesting aspect of a negative nature. In the past when watches have been maintained over known agents of the Comintern, it has been very noticeable how the suspects have doubled, twisted and turned in their tracks and generally resorted to methods that would confound and upset any possible shadower. In Retter's case nothing of this kind was observed and it is feasible to believe that were he an accredited agent of some subversive organization, he would have taken greater precautions to elude any watchers than he displayed when he was under surveillance.

During the period of investigation Retter has only been seen out once with a person other than his wife and child and this individual was the Chairman of the Polish Chamber of Commerce, whose conduct is irreproachable.



In the light of information unearthed during the past week, it was learned that Retter had made up his mind in the early part of February of this year to leave Shanghai for Europe. This was before the watch was placed over him and before any enquiries had been made by this office regarding his activities. From information in our possession, it appears that Retter realising his business capabilities were limited, that his opportunities for doing business and making money were even less, and from the fact that since the beginning of January 1937, he could not hope to receive any more remittances from his parents-in-law, owing to certain new restrictions placed upon the export of Polish currency, he came to the conclusion that the wisest course to adopt was to leave China as early as possible in order to avoid starving here.

His father-in-law, moreover, had requested him to return to Poland and assist him (the father) in his business, and as far as can be ascertained such was Retter's intention after his arrival in Europe.

On February 15, 1937 Retter advised Mr. Nixon that he would be giving up the apartment at Seymour Road on March 1, 1937. A few days prior to February 15, 1937 Retter made his way to the Polish Legation and made formal application for a new passport to replace the one he held, which by that time, had expired. He was issued with Polish Passport No. 16/37 (414322) issued by the same authority on October 31, 1936. Both Retter and his wife received visas for travel in Austria, valid for one year, on February 26, 1937 from the Austrian Consulate-General and transit visas for one journey through U.S.S.R. on March 1, 1937 from the Soviet Consulate-General.

Retter, his wife and child left Shanghai on March 2, 1937 on the Soviet s.s. "Sever" for Vladivostok en route for

Poland via Siberia. The fact that Retter travelled on a Soviet vessel when leaving Shanghai might appear, at first sight, to confirm the suspicions that he is an agent of the Comintern, but it has been definitely established that Retter travelled on this particular vessel on advice tendered by Mr. Roach. Retter asked Roach for advice as to the quickest, easiest and cheapest way to reach Poland from Shanghai, and bearing in mind that the trip via the D.K.K. Line to Dairen and thence by rail to the Soviet border would entail numerous changes, which would not be convenient when travelling with a young baby, Roach advised Retter to book through the Soviet Intourist Agency to Poland, using the sea-route to Vladivostock and thence by rail - a question of one change only. Roach even went with Retter to the agency and to the Soviet Consulate-General and assisted Retter in making the booking and procuring his visas. Mr. Roach is quite a well known man in Shanghai and there is no question of his relations with Retter being other than those of a friend. In fact the greater part of Retter's friends and acquaintances in Shanghai, who were not many, were introduced to him by Mr. Roach.

Retter had three banking accounts in Shanghai - the National City Bank of New York, the Chartered Bank and the Italian Bank for China. It is not believed that this point has any special significance, for it is a well known fact that business men, especially those people who are not well off, are assisted considerably in their affairs by the fact that they have a number of banking accounts, however small they may be.

Retter was also a member of the Polish Charity organisation Committee and is reported to have helped considerably in alleviating distress among local Polish indigent circles.

The enquiries regarding Retter have been made very discreetly and it must be said that from the information gained

there is not the slightest evidence to show that he was actively connected with any communist apparatus in Shanghai or in France prior to his arrival here. All avenues have been combed for information regarding this man in the light of subversive activities and the people who have been confidentially approached during the course of this investigation, have expressed the opinion that Retter was too honest and straightforward a man ever to be connected with communists or their nefarious work.

**POSELSTWO  
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ  
W CHINACH  
LEGATION  
DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE POLOGNE  
EN CHINE**

Szanghai, dn. 197 July, 1939.  
Shanghai, le

26 Route Delastre.

Nr. R-31/Ch/14.

W sprawie     Mr. and Mrs. H. Retter;  
Objet         enquiry.

Dear Sir,

The Consular Section of the Polish Legation in China, request you kindly to inform it whether Mr. and Mrs. Henryk RETTER, both Polish citizens, are noted in your files.

The Polish Legation in China will be much obliged if you would furnish it with full details that might be in your possession, pertaining to the above-mentioned Mr. and Mrs. H. RETTER.

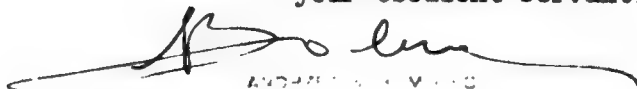
Their last address was known to be at 525 Seymour Road.

I beg to remain,

Dear Sir,

your obedient servant,

The Commissioner,  
Shanghai Municipal Police,  
S h a n g h a i.

  
ANDRZEJ G. M. S.  
Consular Section

July

20,

39.

Acting Consul General for Poland,  
26 Route Delastre,  
SHANGHAI.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of  
your letter No.B-31/Ch/14 dated July 19, 1939,  
and in reply have to state that the matter is re-  
ceiving attention.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sd. K. M. Burns.

Commissioner of Police.

WPFY/.

August 5,

30.

Acting Consul General for Poland,  
26 Route Delastre,  
French Concession.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. B-31/Ch/14 dated July 19, 1939 I have the honour to forward herewith a confidential report concerning Mr. and Mrs. Better.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sd. K. M. Bourne.  
Commissioner of Police.

CLX/.

7820  
H 331

4/8/39

MEMO.

P. A. to Commr

although dated  
March 1934, attached  
memorandum  
contains all we  
know of Petter.

I should like the  
memorandum &  
covering letter  
delivered by D. B. Petter

Wm Robertson

D. C. Special Branch.

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No. S. B. D. 7820

**SECRET**

REPORT

S.1, Special Branch, Station,

Date March 5, 1937.

Subject: Henryk RETTER, Polish Jew.

Made by D.S. Pitts.

Forwarded by T. Hayat D.S.I.

Inquiries conducted into the past and present activities of a suspected communist agent, whose name was reported to be "A. Retter", have produced the following results:-

Henryk RETTER, a Polish Jew, was born at Serajevo, Yugo-Slavia on August 21, 1910, of Polish parents of Jewish extraction. He studied in Poland until 1929 or 1930, when he proceeded to France to complete his education. He remained in France until the summer of 1935 when he came to Shanghai.

From 1930 until 1933, Retter studied law, economics and commercial science at the Universities of Sorbonne (Paris), Nancy and Caen and diplomas received by Retter have been seen in confidence, leaving little doubt that during the period in question, he was legitimately using his time in studying.

In 1933 and 1934 Retter was employed in Paris with one A. JETTEL of 20 Passage des Petites Ecuries, Paris.

In 1935, Retter, who by this time had married in Paris a Polish Jewess named Minda RABINOWITZ, decided that the time was opportune for him to endeavour to support his wife and himself on his own labours, as up to this time he had been supported by his parents, and after his marriage, by his parents-in-law, who are wealthy people, controlling large seed-oil interests in Poland. With this thought in mind he decided to come to China to set up an import and export business in various lines. From the time of his marriage until about two months ago, Retter has been receiving a monthly remittance from his father-in-law. Mrs. Retter is a qualified bacteriologist and after arrival in Shanghai unsuccessfully tried to obtain a post with the French Municipal Council as an analytical chemist.

Retter and his wife left France in August, 1935, travelling

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ref. par.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. B. REGISTRY  
- 8 MAR 1937

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not a fan  
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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

- 2 -

Station, .....

Date ..... 19

Subject .....

Made by ..... Forwarded by .....

overland to Venice, where they embarked on the s.s. "Conte Rosso," on August 10, 1935. They left this vessel in Hongkong on September 1, 1935, and remained in the Colony for about 18 days, after which they continued their journey to Shanghai on the P. & O. s.s. "Chitral." Retter's object in visiting Hongkong was to ascertain what opportunities there existed for him as a new business man. He was not pleased with the prospects there and left after a brief stay. After arrival in Shanghai on September 22, 1935, the Rettors stayed at the Metropole Hotel until October 1, 1935 when they removed to 941 Bubbling Well Road, which was then housing the Western Mansions.

Now during Retter's voyage to the Far East on the s.s. "Conte Rosso," he became rather friendly with a Mr. A.H. ROACH, British, employed in the Tea Department of Messrs. Olivier-Chine, 95 Museum Road, who was a fellow passenger. Retter confided his troubles and hopes in Roach, who taking a liking to Retter, promised to do what he could to assist him in "finding his legs" in Shanghai. Since his arrival here, Roach has befriended him in both business and private life.

After Retter had arrived in Shanghai and put up at the Metropole Hotel on September 22, 1935, he communicated with Roach, who aware of the fact that Retter's finances were in none too healthy a condition, advised him to leave the Metropole as it was too expensive and move to a boarding-house or a smaller hotel. Accordingly on October 1, 1935 the Rettors removed to the Western Mansions, where they resided for one month.

On September 23, 1935 Retter first approached the local Polish Legation authorities for the purpose of registering

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

- 3 -

.....Station,

Date.....19

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

himself and his wife as Polish citizens. Although Mrs. Ketter was in possession of a Polish passport issued in Paris bearing her married name, neither she nor Ketter could produce other documentary evidence (marriage certificate, etc) to prove to the satisfaction of the Polish authorities that they were legally married. As a result of this the Polish Legation felt that Ketter was possibly trying to conceal something of a dubious nature, and communicated with its Legation in Paris requesting full information regarding Ketter's activities and movements whilst in France. Following this, the Surete Nationale (the French equivalent of Scotland Yard) conducted investigations into Ketter's affairs in France, and according to the information transmitted to Shanghai from Paris, any suspicions concerning Ketter's activities could be regarded as being unfounded, he having lead the normal life of a foreign student. Information was also forthcoming from Paris which permitted the local Legation to register both Ketter and his wife as a legally married couple.

In the latter part of October, 1935 an advertisement appeared in the North-China Daily News offering a furnished apartment at Flat 3, House 4, Greystone Apartments, 525 Seymour Road. Roach, still playing the role of a friend, arranged with the advertiser to take over the flat on Ketter's behalf as from November 1, 1935. The advertiser, Mr. J. E. NIXON, British, in whose name the premises are still leased, is the proprietor of Jas. M. Nixon & CO., Cotton and Cotton Waste Merchants, 149 Szechuen Road. He resides at 310 Hart Road and enjoys a good reputation locally. Ketter and his wife moved into this flat on November 1, and since that date

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

Station, .....  
Date.....19

- 4 -

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

have paid rent of \$175 per month to Mr. Nixon.

On October 9, 1935 Ketter leased Post Office Box No. 1244, Mr. West, the then manager of the Western Mansions, acting as guarantor.

On January 15, 1936, Ketter took over Office No. 33 located on the 3rd. floor of the Capitol Building, 142 Museum Road, having previously made arrangements with the agents, Messrs. S.S. Shahmoon & Co., 63 Peking Road, to lease it for one year or more at a monthly rental of \$60. He used this office for transacting such business in which he was engaged, but as will be explained below, his business was not sufficiently prosperous to compel him to visit the office regularly, and it has been established that he was in the habit of only occasionally making calls at his office - sometimes three and four times a week and sometimes even less. All office equipment was furnished by the agents, no telephone was installed, no assistant was employed and nobody other than Ketter himself and the office cleaners ever put foot in the office.

Ketter gave up this office on February 20, 1937. A confidential "look-over" the office in question on March 1, 1937 failed to reveal anything of a suspicious nature.

Regarding Ketter's business activities, it has been ascertained that he dealt in the import and export of cloth manufactures and piece goods from and to Poland and Palestine, and occasionally dealt in sausage casings and tea. He has done a small but regular amount of business during the last twelve months with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson's, Polish-Chinese Trading Corporation Ltd., 150 Kiukiang Road and the Polish Import and Export Co., 320 Szechuen Road. He is a member

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

- 5 -

Station, .....

Date..... 19

Subject.....

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

of the Polish Chamber of Commerce, and although far from being a "big" business man, is regarded by members of this Chamber as being an honest and straightforward individual.

He receives very little mail from abroad and that which does arrive is delivered to him through the medium of P.O. Box 1244.

One thing is certain - Retter is not very well-off as regards money, in spite of the fact that his parents-in-law until a short time ago, were in the habit of regularly sending him remittances to enable him to support their daughter in a fair degree of comfort.

Questioned through a third person Retter was asked why he had been absent from Poland since 1929. In reply he stated quite frankly in order to evade military service and that if, and when he returned to Poland, he was "going to have a good try to get out of it for good."

Retter spent many hours each week in the Foreign Y.M.C.A. studying intricate chess problems, and playing chess with some of the local experts. He was recently successful in a chess tournament at the Y.M.C.A. He often played with one M.

DIAMANT, who some years ago came under the suspicion of this office, but according to our present enquiries no significance beyond their mutual interest in the game can be attached to their meetings. Diamant, it should be added, is one of the most prominent chess players in Shanghai.

Retter's home has been thoroughly checked, but there is no indication from its contents that he is engaged in any subversive activities.

An unobtrusive watch maintained over Retter's movements

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

- 6 -

Station, .....

Date.....19

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

for twelve days commencing from February 16, 1937, but apart from a few business calls of a legitimate nature, most of his time was spent at home with his wife and baby daughter (born in the Country Hospital in the autumn of 1936) and at the Y.M.C.A. playing chess. The surveillance, however, revealed one very interesting aspect of a negative nature. In the past when watches have been maintained over known agents of the Comintern, it has been very noticeable how the suspects have doubled, twisted and turned in their tracks and generally resorted to methods that would confound and upset any possible shadower. In Ketter's case nothing of this kind was observed and it is feasible to believe that were he an accredited agent of some subversive organisation, he would have taken greater precautions to elude any watchers than he displayed when he was under surveillance.

During the period of investigation Ketter has only been seen out once with a person other than his wife and child and this individual was the Chairman of the Polish Chamber of Commerce, whose conduct is irreproachable.

In the light of information unearthed during the past week, it was learned that Ketter had made up his mind in the early part of February of this year to leave Shanghai for Europe. This was before the watch was placed over him and before any enquiries had been made by this office regarding his activities. From information in our possession, it appears that Ketter realising his business capabilities were limited, that his opportunities for doing business and making money were even less, and from the fact that since the beginning of January 1937, he could not hope to receive any more

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

- 7 -

Station, .....  
Date ..... 19

Subject .....

Made by ..... Forwarded by .....

remittances from his parents-in-law, owing to certain new restrictions placed upon the export of Polish currency, he came to the conclusion that the wisest course to adopt was to leave China as early as possible in order to avoid starving here.

His father-in-law, moreover, had requested him to return to Poland and assist him (the father) in his business, and as far as can be ascertained such was Retter's intention after his arrival in Europe.

On February 15, 1937 Retter advised Mr. Nixon that he would be giving up the apartment at Seymour Road on March 1, 1937. A few days prior to February 15, 1937 Retter made his way to the Polish Legation and made formal application for a new passport to replace the one he held, which by that time, had expired. He was issued with Polish Passport No. 16/37 (414354) on February 20, 1937 by the Polish Legation in Shanghai. Mrs. Retter is in possession of Passport No. 137/36 (414322) issued by the same authority on October 31, 1936. Both Retter and his wife received visas for travel in Austria, valid for one year, on February 26, 1937 from the Austrian Consulate-General and transit visas for one journey through U.S.S.R. on March 1, 1937 from the Soviet Consulate-General.

Retter, his wife and child left Shanghai on March 2, 1937 on the Soviet s.s. "Sever" for Vladivostok en route for Poland via Siberia. The fact that Retter travelled on a Soviet vessel when leaving Shanghai might appear, at first sight, to confirm the suspicions that he is an agent of the Comintern, but it has been definitely established that Retter travelled on this particular vessel on advice tendered by Mr. Roach. Retter asked Roach for advice as to the quickest,

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

- 8 -

Station, .....  
Date ..... 19 .....

Subject .....

Made by ..... Forwarded by .....

easiest and cheapest way to reach Poland from Shanghai, and bearing in mind that the trip via the D.K.M. Line to Dairen and thence by rail to the Soviet border would entail numerous changes, which would not be convenient when travelling with a young baby, Roach advised Retter to book through the Soviet Intourist Agency to Poland, using the sea-route to Vladivostok and thence by rail - a question of one change only. Roach even went with Retter to the Agency and to the Soviet Consulate-General and assisted Retter in making the booking and procuring his visas. Mr. Roach is quite a well known man in Shanghai and there is no question of ~~his~~ his relations with Retter being other than those of a friend. In fact the greater part of Retter's friends and acquaintances in Shanghai, who were not many, were introduced to him by Mr. Roach.

Retter had three banking accounts in Shanghai - the National City Bank of New York, the Chartered Bank and the Italian Bank for China. It is not believed that this point has any special significance, for it is a well known fact that business men, especially those people who are not well off, are assisted considerably in their affairs by the fact that they have a number of banking accounts, however small they may be.

Retter was also a member of the Polish Charity organisation Committee and is reported to have helped considerably in alleviating distress among local Polish indigent circles.

His description is as follows:-

Age, 27; height; about 5'10"; build, medium; hair, chestnut; eyes, brown; face, oval. Photographs of Retter and his wife are forwarded herewith.



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

- 9 -

Station, .....  
Date ..... 19 .....

Subject .....

Made by ..... Forwarded by .....

The enquiries regarding Retter have been made very discreetly and it must be said that from the information gained there is not the slightest evidence to show that he was actively connected with any communist apparatus in Shanghai or in France prior to his arrival here. All avenues have been combed for information regarding this man in the light of subversive activities and the people who have been confidentially approached during the course of this investigation, have expressed the opinion that Retter was too honest and straightforward a man ever to be connected with communists or their nefarious work. It is hoped to have Retter's address in Poland in our possession in the near future when a further report will be submitted.

D. C. 2  
6/12

Da Pitts

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch).